

# Desired Outcomes of the K-5 ELA Common Core Academy: If Nothing Else, We Get These Things Done!

## 1. “Can Do” feeling

Participants will feel that completely transitioning to the Common Core by the 2013-2014 school year is a doable task in a doable timeline. Push the “Can Do” attitude. Praise them for their existing expertise and knowledge base.

## 2. Know the Common Core

Participants will have a good working knowledge of the K-5 ELA Common Core, with an emphasis on what student learning is expected that was not in the previous core.

### Our Constitution!

1. “Can Do” feeling
2. Know the Common Core
3. Writing focus
4. Cooperative Learning
5. Common Core Template

## 3. Writing focus

The major pedagogical focus of the Academy is writing. Participants will know how to

- **Schedule** writing into their school day, every day; know how writing fits into the “literacy block,” into the content areas.
- Set up and maintain **classroom management** to facilitate writing, e.g., centers, grouping, storing and access to materials, etc.
- Understand and be able to conduct the three necessary elements of **the writing workshop**: 1) teacher instruction, 2) student writing, and 3) student sharing.
- Understand how to anchor inquiry and **writing into the grade-level Science and Social Studies curricula**.

- Develop skills in utilizing the “**Gradual Release of Responsibility**” in writing instruction.
- Learn to teach the **three kinds of writing in the Common Core**: argumentation/opinion, informative/explanatory, and narrative—in every grade.
- Understand that **student achievement increases only if** the writing is: 1) informational, rubric-driven, and has been through multiple drafts.
- Make sure writers are getting **feedback** on their writing, both from the teacher and other sources.
- Learn strategies to move students through the entire **writing process**.
- Teach **specific traits and genres** of writing.

### Writing Top Ten

1. Schedule
2. Classroom Management
3. Writing Workshop
4. Content Centered
5. Gradual Release
6. Three types of writing
7. Improvement if...
8. Feedback
9. Writing process
10. Traits of good writing

## 4. Cooperative Learning

Participants will understand the basic principles of collaborative/cooperative learning, and be able to quickly and efficiently use five different structures.

## 5. Common Core Template

Participants will know how to apply the Common Core Template to their existing units and to the development of new units.